



Roxann Wedegartner
Mayor

City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

City Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301
Phone 413-772-1548 ext 3 • Fax 413-772-1309
Cassie.tragert@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

Rachel Lindsay, Acting
Chair
Erika LaForme
Fletcher Harrington
Travis Drury
Christin McDonough

GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, July 13, 2021
Greenfield Department of Planning and Development
Online via WebEx
Greenfield MA 01301

The meeting was called to order by Rachel Lindsay at 6:36 p.m. with the following members:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rachel Lindsay
Erika LaForme
Travis Drury
Fletcher Harrington
Christin McDonough

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Eric Twarog (Acting Agent)
Stephanie Johnson (Baystate Health)
Dawn Travalini (National Grid)
Jeremy Sherman (National Grid)
Tracy Sudhalter (TRC)
Jagrut Jathal (CDM Smith)
Alex Haro (Rocky Mountain/Temple Woods)

Note on Meeting Access in light of COVID-19 State of Emergency:

Pursuant to Bill S.2475 Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, this meeting of the Greenfield Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found below. Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the City of Greenfield website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Should any technical interruption to the meeting occur and the meeting is suddenly ended, it will not be resumed and all items will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting date. Contact the Conservation Agent for more information

Administrative Matters: Approval of Meeting Minutes from 5/25/2021 and 6/8/2021



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Motion made by Travis Drury to approve the meeting minutes for the May 25, 2021 meeting as amended.
Motion seconded by Rachel Lindsay.
No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries

Acting Agent Twarog stated that he could not find a copy of the meeting minutes from June 8, 2021. The Commission reached consensus to put these on the July 27, 2021 meeting agenda.

Public Meetings/Hearings

➤ **Public Meeting: Request for Determination of Applicability: Temporary set up of parking/event tents at Kimball Drive; (Map: 48, Lot: 24).**

The Commission reviewed a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Baystate Health Foundation. Applicant is seeking a negative determination of whether the work depicted is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and/or the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance. The proposed project is to set up temporary parking and event tents associated with the Wheeling for Healing bike event. Stephanie Johnson of Baystate Health presented the request to the Commission and stated that this will be the 14th Annual Wheeling for Healing bike event. All participants would start and end at Wedgwood Gardens. Typically, there are about 150 participants for this event. Due to COVID-19, they are expecting between 100-150 participants this year. There will be a couple of 10' x 10' pop up tents for the event. Commissioner Lindsay inquired if there will be a parking attendant for this event. Ms. Johnson responded yes there will be volunteer parking attendants to direct people to the parking area as well as keeping them away from the DPW mitigation area. Commissioner Lindsay inquired if there is a rain date for this event. Ms. Johnson responded that the event will happen rain or shine unless there is a severe weather event. Commissioner Harrington inquired on the number of anticipated vehicles. Ms. Johnson responded about 80. The Commission requested that the Applicant use the exact boundary for parking as used by Greenfield Community College for the Green River Festival of which a map is available. Construction or snow fencing shall be used to demarcate the parking area. The placement of the fencing shall be 200 feet from Maple Brook. Commissioner Lindsay inquired on the removal of trash and recyclables. Ms. Johnson responded that all trash and recyclables will be removed from the site after the event. The Commissioners concurred with the proposed location for the porta potties near the bank leading to Colrain Street and close to the entrance. The Commission discussed special conditions to include: no overnight camping shall be allowed; the Commission reserves the right to cancel the event in the event of an extreme weather event. Ms. Johnson inquired about public access at Wedgewood Gardens during this event. Commissioner Harrington asked if the Applicant has obtained any other permits for this event. Ms. Johnson responded yes from the Recreation Department. Acting Agent Twarog stated that the Applicant should review the permit from the Recreation Department to see if it states anything about public access during the event. If it doesn't, then the public has the right to access the property.

Motion made by Travis Drury to issue a negative determination of applicability Type 3 under the Wetlands Protection Act.
Motion seconded by Fletcher Harrington.
No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries



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Motion made by Travis Drury to issue a negative determination of applicability Type 3 under the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance.

Motion seconded by Fletcher Harrington.

No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries

➤ **Public Hearing: Notice of Intent: Green River utility line structures relocation off Health Camp Road; (Map: R32, Lot: 2B) DEP File # 168-0344.**

The Commission reviewed a Notice of Intent filed by TRC Environmental, representative of the New England Power Company. Applicant is seeking an Order of Conditions for the relocation of two existing electrical utility structures from within the bank of the Green River within an overhead electrical utility Right-of-Way. There are proposed impacts to Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, 200ft Riverfront Area, Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, Bank, and the 100ft Buffer Zone. The project impact area is also within designated Priority Habitat by NHESP and proposes one temporary stream crossing. The project is seeking qualification as a Limited Project under 310 CMR 10.53(3)(d). Tracy Sudhalter from TRC presented the project to the Commission. She stated that due to Hurricane Irene, the main channel of the Green River has shifted to the east compromising two of their structures, Structure 452 on line E205E and Structure 244 on line Y-177. Timber matting will be placed on the access road as well as on some upland area. A timber matting bridge will be installed to cross the tributary leading to the site. The two compromised structures will be moved 75 feet to the east from their current location using micro piles for the new structures. The existing structures will be removed using cranes. Turbidity curtains will be placed in the Green River and weighted down to the bottom. These will only be installed when the actual work is being done but may be up for a couple of days. Ms. Sudhalter stated that during the Alternatives Analysis, they looked at other options to deal with this but MA DEP didn't approve of them. The Applicant reviewed historical photos of the area to show how the river corridor has changed over the last twenty years as well as photos of the compromised structures themselves. Commissioner Harrington inquired on how long the project will take to complete. Ms. Sudhalter responded about two weeks, one week per structure. Ms. Travalini clarified that this doesn't include the time to install and remove the timber matting. It will take about four hours to remove the existing structures. The Commission reviewed the comments on the project from MA DEP. In response to Comment #1, the Applicant stated that the response they received from the NHESP is that there would be no adverse impacts from the project. Commissioner Harrington asked about the seed mix and inquired about adding woody shrubbery and/or low height trees to the seed mix. Ms. Travalini responded that she will have to consult with their Forestry Division to see if this is possible for areas not under the ROW. A photo of a timber matting bridge was shared with the Commission. In response to MA DEP Comment #4, the Commission reached consensus not to require the project to be resubmitted as a redevelopment project. In response to MA DEP Comments #5 and 6, the Applicant has agreed to amend the Notice of Intent Form 3, Section B and forward the amended form to the Conservation Commission. In response to MA DEP Comments #7, the Commission requested that the BLSF with elevations be put on the resource area map. Commissioner Lindsay asked about how they plan to prevent the spread of invasive species. Ms. Travalini responded that all matting is cleaned prior to placement and cleaned when removed. Acting Chair Lindsay opened the public hearing up for public comment at 9:00 p.m. No public comment. Acting Chair Lindsay closed the public hearing for public comment at 9:01 p.m. The Commission discussed



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special conditions for this project to include: requiring the Applicant to amend the NOI and forward the amended pages to the Commission; adding the BLSF with elevations to the resource area map and forwarding it to the Commission; and providing the Commission with a list of potential seed mixes for approval after consultation with their Forestry Division.

Motion made by Fletcher Harrington to close the hearing at 9:03 p.m. for DEP File # 168-0344.

Motion seconded by Travis Drury.

No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries

The Commission reviewed the draft Order of Conditions for this project.

Motion made by Fletcher Harrington to issue an Order of Conditions with Special Conditions as described in the hearing for DEP File # 168-0344 under the Wetlands Protection Act.

Motion seconded by Travis Drury.

No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries

Motion made by Fletcher Harrington to issue an Order of Conditions with Special Conditions as described in the hearing for DEP File # 168-0344 under the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance.

Motion seconded by Travis Drury.

No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries

Enforcement Updates & Other Business

➤ Enforcement updates

- 21 Spring Terrace (Map 65-9) – unauthorized construction within Riverfront Area.
 - No updates, awaiting review of plantings in the spring.
- 286 Plain Road (Map R34-10) – unauthorized construction within Riverfront Area.
 - No updates.
- 637 Colrain Road (Map R35-7) – unauthorized filling of wetlands.
 - No updates.
- Old Wedgewood Gardens - Kimball Drive (Map 48-24) – unauthorized fill of Riverfront Area.
 - No updates.
- 8 Conway Drive (Map 49-24) – unauthorized fill of Riverfront Area.
 - No updates.
- Bear's Den Road/Highland Park (Map R01-15) – Erosion and sedimentation of wetland areas.
 - No updates.

➤ 45 Plum Tree Lane – Tree removal request.

- No one was present to review the request. The Commission reached consensus to add this to the July 27th meeting agenda. A map of the area showing resource areas relative to the trees and a letter from an arborist about the trees is required for the meeting. The requester or an agent will need to be present at the July 27th meeting to present the request to the Commission.



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- Rocky Mountain/Temple Woods ownership/management discussion.
 - Alex Haro presented the issues to the Commission and referenced previous correspondence sent to Cassie Tragert. He stated that rope swings and fire pits were constructed. These have since been taken down. Trails have been created by mountain bikers that are not formal trails. The Commissioners discussed the issues.
- Annual Reorganization.

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to nominate Travis Drury as Chair of the Conservation Commission.
Motion seconded by Christin McDonough.
No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries

Motion made by Travis Drury to nominate Rachel Lindsay as Vice-chair of the Conservation Commission.
Motion seconded by Christin McDonough.
No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries

- Agent Position Updates.
 - Acting Agent Twarog notified the Commission that the City has hired Hannah Davis as the new part-time Conservation Agent who will start on Monday, July 26, 2021.

Project Monitoring & Site Visit Scheduling

- List of active Order of Conditions and updates.
 - 195 Mill Brook Road – Solar Project.
 - No updates.
 - 125 Mohawk Trail – Hotel Construction.
 - No updates.
 - 739 Bernardston Road – Center School
 - Rachel Loeffler from the Berkshire Design Group presented the update to the Commission and showed the wetland intrusion area which has been filled with rip rap. The Commission inquired about placing topsoil on top of the rip rap. Ms. Loeffler responded that wetland scientist Ward was against this idea. Commissioner Drury suggested leaving the altered area as is. Commissioner Lindsay suggested having the area monitored for invasive species. Ms. Loeffler stated that she will send photos of the area to the Commission and provided a planting update. Trees will be planted this fall and will forward this information to Acting Agent Twarog for the file. She reviewed the proposed location of the free-standing sign for the Center School. The sign is within the 100 foot buffer but not within the 25 foot no disturb zone. No lighting is proposed for the sign. The Commission reached consensus that the placement of the sign will not create any adverse impact to resource areas and therefore no amendment is needed.
 - 60 James Street – Single-family home.
 - No updates.



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- Wisdom Way/River Street/Mill Street Intersection (DEP #: 168-0338, Exp. 10/27/2023) – Roadway improvements.
 - No updates.
- 225-245 Mohawk Trail (DEP#: 168-0339, Exp. 5/11/2024) – Big Y vegetation and invasive plant management.
 - No updates.
- Rear Linwood Street (DEP #: 168-0341, Exp. 5/28/2024) – Franklin County Fairgrounds slope stabilization and wetlands restoration.
 - No updates.
- 1 Birch Street (DEP #: 168-0340, Exp. 6/8/2024) – Single family home renovation.
 - No updates.
- Power Court/River Street/Shelburne Road East ROW (DEP#: 168-0342, Exp. 6/18/2024) – Eversource ROW tree removal, pole removal, new pole installations.
 - No updates.

➤ **Set Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021**

Meeting Adjourned at 10:28 PM

Motion made by Travis Drury to adjourn at 10:28 PM

Motion seconded by Fletcher Harrington

No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Twarog,
Acting Conservation Agent

Rachel Lindsay,
Acting Chair